

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4322

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 739

E.O. 11652:NGDS

TAGS: PARM, MXO, CE, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV STATEMENT ON INDIAN OCEAN BASES

1. GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED LAKE HOUSE NEWSPAPERS FEBRUARY 26
CARRIED FOLLOWING TASS STORY QUOTING BREZHNEV SPEECH AT
25TH CPSPGGRESS: "OF LATE, PRONOUNCEMENTS HAVE BEEN
RROLIFERATING IN MANY COUNTRIES AGAINST ANY OF THE
POWERS SETTING UP MILITARY BASES IN THE REGION OF THE
INDIAN OCEAN. WE ARE IN SYMPATHY WITH THESE PRONOUNCEMENTS.
THE SOVIET UNION HAS NEVER HAD, AND NOW HAS ANY INTENTION WHATEVER OF
BUILDING MILITARY BASES IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN, AND WE CALL ON THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE
THE SAME STAND."

2. AT MONTHLY PRESS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 26, SRI LANKA 'S
DEPUTY MINISTER EF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA),
LAKSHMAN JAYOKODY, IS REPORTED, AGAIN IN GOVERNMENT-
CONTROLLED "CEYLON DAILY NEWS", AS WELCOMING BREZHNEV
STATEMENT THAT USSR HAS NOT HAD AND WILL NOT HAVE ANY
BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN. ACCORDING TO PRESS, JAYAKODY
SAID THIS WAS FIRST SUCH STATEMENT FROM USSR HEAD OF
STATE. JAYAKODY REPORTEDLY ALSO SAID IT FELL IN LINE
WITH INDIAN OCEAN PEACE ZONE PROPOSAL, IT IS FURTHER
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STEP TO ACHIEVING WHAT PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE HAS

ADVOCATED AND HE HOPED OTHER POWERS WOULD ALSO ADOPT SAME STTITUDE. JAYAKODY ALSO SAID HIS TALKS WITH SOVIET DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER FIRYUBIN, WHO IS IN COLOMBO TO SIGN ANNUAL CULTURAL PROTOCOL, HAD BEEN ON SIMILAR LINES AND HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF THE THIS SOVIET ATTITUDE.

3. UNLESS ADVISED TO CONTRARY, EMBASSY PLANS TO CALL TO JAYAKODY'S ATTENTION MATERIAL AMBASSADOR PROVIDED TO MDFA SECRETARY W.T. JAYASINGHE LAST SUMMER REGARDING SOVIET DEVELOPMENT OF BERBERA FACILITIES.MATERIAL INCLUDED DEFENSE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY NOYES TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE ON JUNE 10, 1975 AS WELL AS PRESS RELEASES ISSUED BY SENATOR BARTLETT AND REPRESENTATIVE STRATTON FOLLOWING THEIR VISITS TO SOMALIA. WE WOULD PLAN TO AUGMENT WITH COMMITTEE PRINT OF JULY 15, 1975 BARTLETT PRESS RELEASE OF JANUARY 7, 1976 REPORTEDLY BASED ON DOD SOURCES, REGARDING SOVIET ACTIVITIES IN SOMALIA. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ALSO CABLE ANY ADDITIONAL MATERIAL ON EXPANSION OF MILITARY FACILITIES IN INDIAN OCEAN AREA WHICH MIGHT BE USED IN APPROACH TO JAYAKODY.

4. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT OR MOSCBT CONFORMING WHETHER PRESS REPORT IS CORRECT THAT BREZHNEV STATEMENT IS FIRST SOVIET STATEMENT WHICH EXPLICIT WAYS SOVIETS HAVE NOT HAD AND DO NOT PLAN BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN. WOULD LIKE TO HAVE GUIDANCE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS TUESDAY, MARCH 2.
VAN HOLLEN

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